

# YORKVILLE ENQUIRER.

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## VIEWS AND INTERVIEWS

Brief Local Paragraphs of More or Less Interest.

### PICKED UP BY ENQUIRER REPORTERS

Stories Concerning Folks and Things, Some of Which You Know and Some You Don't Know—Condensed For Quick Reading.

Sam R. Pratt is regarded as one of the best judges of horseflesh and horse nature in all this section and he loves good horses and intelligent horses. "That horse's show in Yorkville Monday," he said, "had the finest and best trained horses I ever saw anywhere in the entire country."

**Weevil Cuts Education.**  
"The boll weevil has cut off the education of many a South Carolina boy living below Columbia this year," said the head of one of the largest South Carolina colleges to whom Views and Interviews was talking the other day. "The number of boys and girls attending colleges and fitting schools this year from the down state section is nothing like as great as it was last year because the crops on which they depended have been a failure by reason of the boll weevil. Thus you see the weevil has his bad effect on every line of industry and endeavor."

**Guineas to Get Weevils.**  
"I'm going to require every family on my lands next year to raise a flock of guineas to eat boll weevils," said J. L. Rainey of Sharon, one of the largest landowners in western York county who was talking about the boll weevil the other afternoon. "Guineas," said Mr. Rainey, "are noted destroyers of insects. They not only pick them up from the ground but they actually fly into the air in pursuit of winged insects and I have a notion that they will destroy lots of weevils. I'm going to try out the plan thoroughly anyhow."

**Trying for Prize.**  
"Union school is going to take a try for the first prize of \$10 offered by the State School Improvement Association for the greatest school improvement," said Truman Youngblood, a trustee of Union School on York No. 6, who was in Yorkville yesterday and who talked about his school. "We have doubled our enrollment; erected a new building which is a decided improvement over the old shack we formerly had. We now employ two teachers, whereas we used to have one and in fact we hardly know ourselves. We have a photograph of the old building and we are going to have a photograph made of the new building to compare. We may not win that prize but we are going to be found trying."

**Troubled by Solicitors.**  
"Had a visit from a magazine agent this morning," said a Yorkville lady. "You hear about women being great talkers; but I couldn't get in a word against that young man. He said he was selling subscriptions to magazines to get money to go to college and he pleaded so hard and so long that the only way I could get rid of him was to give him a dollar. Lots of them seem to be working this territory just now and I expect most of them are fakirs. I remember that I did get a chance to tell this smooth young man that I doubted very much if I ever saw the magazine. He laughed and said something about my not having confidence in him and promised to send the magazine. I guess I'll know positively a month from now."

**Most Cotton Ginned.**  
"Jim" Hope, well known merchant and cotton buyer of Sharon, believes that at least 70 per cent. of this year's cotton crop in his section has already been picked and ginned. "I don't think there is any doubt about it," said Mr. Hope Tuesday. "For instance this afternoon I have asked the first fifteen farmers who dropped into my store the number of bales they expect to make and the number that they have yet to gin. I kept the record and these figures show you the total number of bales each will make and the amount of that total yet to be ginned."

Already Ginned	Yet to Gin
8	1
6	2
26	6
9	1
13	9
6	2
8	8
15	10
29	15
28	3
11	6
13	3
14	4
16	4
19	2
27	7

**Recollections of the Itch.**  
"See by The Enquirer the itch is getting around," said a man yesterday. "I believe now, anybody who has that thing has my sympathy because I have been there."  
"I went to Bethany High school one year in the days when it was a co-educational institution and had a couple of dormitories."  
"The itch broke out there among in late fall and both the boys and girls had it. There are lots of them in York county who will no doubt remember it."  
"We used sulphur and lard and hot water and cold water and every kind of salve imaginable."  
"One of the teachers got it. He was

## MUSCLE SHOALS PROBLEM

Allow Properly to go to Waste or Give it to Henry Ford.

### PROPOSED SALE FULLY EXPLAINED

If Government Does Not Sell Property All Its Great Investment will be Lost, But Powerful Interests would Rather Have That Than See Ford Get It.

Washington Herald.  
Should the United States spend somewhere in the neighborhood of \$30,000,000 and render itself free from the necessity of having to rely on Chile for its supply of nitrates which are the basis for wartime explosives and peacetime food? In other words, what is to happen to Muscle Shoals? Under the control of the war department, it is proving a rather vexing question, only one bill on the plant having been so far received which could in any sense be considered to have the requisite financial backing.

Probably no public work of prime importance, to compare with this project has been so maligned or so little understood by the general public. We know we spent a lot of money during the war and the suggestion has been made that the whole project be abandoned and the loss charged to war expenditures, just as the airplane and ship losses have been wiped out. Some few people, believing it all wasted, really advocate such a step. It would be a grave error. We have a mighty baby which needs nothing more than an expert trained business nurse and some financial milk to grow into splendid manhood.

The facts are that the government has a plant of marvelous potentialities in Muscle Shoals, ready to use. In fact it has been used and produced three nitrates, the basis of nitric acid which in turn is the prime need in both the fertilizer and the explosive field. This plant operation was accomplished using steam power from a plant equipped with 120,000 horsepower in steam boilers. With the completion of the dam, and the coming of cheaper power, the cost of producing would be cut almost in half.

A two weeks' test run of the plant with steam power showed that time nitrogen could be obtained when the plant operated at 20 per cent. capacity at a cost of \$37.50 per ton. The estimated cost for producing with the plant running at full capacity, turning out 222,000 tons per year, under steam power, goes down to \$28 per ton. This latter figure means a power cost of .0042 cents per kilowatt hour. With the completion of the dam, the estimated cost of a kilowatt hour of power is put at .00075 cents, which would cut the cost of the fertilizer to about \$30 per ton.

Investigation committees of engineers and business men from both the American Farm Bureau Federation and the Mississippi Valley association examined Muscle Shoals. Their reports show that the condition existing is approximately this:  
All told the government has spent on the project a total of \$105,121,253.51. This amount is divided into expenditures up to June 30, 1920, for Nitrate Plant No. 1 \$13,545,567.12 (and this plant has never been used, on account of the greater safety of the process for nitrogen fixation used in Plant No. 2); on Nitrate Plant No. 2 \$69,676,839.08 and on the Gorgens Steam Station, including transmission lines and substations (for 40,000 horse power), \$21,909,847.31. On the big dam, known as No. 2, or Wilson Dam, there has been spent or pledged about \$17,000,000.

The Tennessee River at Muscle Shoals is about as large as the Ohio River at Cincinnati, or the Mississippi at Dabouque, or the Potomac here, except that there is more water, because the river is deeper. More water means more power.  
The dam as it now stands blocks the navigation of the Upper Tennessee River and its tributaries. On these streams there are great deposits of coal, iron, marble, slate, phosphate rock, zinc, copper and lead, and immense forests of hardwood lumber. The free navigation of the river is necessary to get the products, badly needed by the nation, out into places where they can be used.  
The question arose that for about \$20,000,000 the big dam (which would be the second largest in the world, being 4,128 feet long and 100 feet high) could be completed, and about 600,000 horsepower, at a maximum could be generated at the low cost above mentioned. Also the river could be made suitable for navigation.  
Completion of the Wilson Dam, however, does not mean that the project is finished. Another dam, further up the river, called No. 3, would have to be built, to store water for the big dam, and in time some twenty-two dams would have to be built on the smaller tributaries of the Tennessee, to store additional water. These smaller dams are scattered about in the mountainous sections of North Carolina and Georgia. They would not have to be built until the demand for power assumed certain proportions, necessitating the storage of water near the sources, to insure a more even flow at the big dam downstream.

But, eventually, they would have to go up, and that is one of the reasons

## WHY PRICES STAY HIGH

The Question is One of Very Many Complications.

### EARNINGS ON DIFFERENT LEVELS

Farmer in Best Position In That He Can Always Eat—Readjustment Is Slow.

By F. J. Haskin.  
Washington, D. C.—"Why," demands an editor out in the corn belt, "does the retailer charge from 35 to 40 cents a pound for pork chops when hogs cost him only 6 or 7 cents?"  
He is one of a chorus singing different words to the same tune. A man down in Oklahoma wants to know why he cannot tote enough hides across the street on his back to buy a pair of shoes. A cotton grower wants to know why cotton enough to make a tent won't buy an undershirt. And a farmer in Maryland asks why apples, such as he fed to his hogs because it would not pay to haul them to market, sell for five cents each on the fruit stands.

All of these questions have been asked many times. They have also been loudly answered with the assertion that retail prices are too high, which is of course merely begging the question. Sometimes it is added that the retailer is a profiteer, which is generally not true and certainly sheds no light on the situation.  
When the editor's query was laid before certain marketing experts in the government service, it was learned that the question is a good deal more complicated than those who blame the retailer, and let it go at that, ever imagined. The department of agriculture is making a study of the retail prices of farm products in all of the principal American cities. It is going to find out just why these prices are so inordinately high and why the farmer gets such a small share of the large price that the consumer pays. The government men do not care to be quoted now to make any extensive comment until this investigation has been completed. But in the meantime they throw out a few hints.

In the first place, they say, don't be too quick to blame the retailer. Retail prices, probably, are too high, but they are not as much too high as you think. The retailer has been facing a dull market for a long time now. His great need is to turn over his stock. It is extremely probable that he would reduce prices if he could afford to do so, in order to stimulate trade. In many cases, of course, he has done so. The papers are full of bargain sale advertisements. Yet the average retail prices remain high.

**Cost of Retailing High.**  
This, say the experts, is partly because the cost of retailing, as a business operation, is high. Out of the 35 cents that you pay for pork chops, the retailer must pay, not only the price of the pork at wholesale, but also the rent of his store, the cost of the ice on which he kept the pork, the wages of the man who cut it and sold it to you, the paper in which it was wrapped and upkeep of the vehicle in which it was delivered.

The experts do not seem to know exactly what percentage of the cost of those pork chops is represented by each of the elements in its transfer. That is probably one of the things their investigation will reveal. But they think that the price paid for the pork is less than half of the total cost of getting it from wholesaler to consumer. And all of these facts in the operation have risen in cost. Rent, wages, ice, paper, gasoline—no one needs to be told that all of these things are from 10 to 100 per cent. higher than they were in 1913.

Remember, too, that with many persons out of work and money tight, the retailer is doing a smaller than normal business. But he still pays the same rent and he probably has to maintain about the same staff. His reduction in expenses, in a word, is not in proportion to his reduction in business. That means that the cost making each sale is higher than it would be if he were doing a big business. If the butcher only sold one pound of pork chops in a day, he would have to get \$10 or \$15 for it in order to break even.

As a matter of fact the profiteering retailer is probably a rare bird just now. A few of them are birds making large profits by sticking to wartime prices; but many more of them are only hoping to make expenses until better times come along.  
The difficulty, explains an expert, lies in the fact that retail prices, wages, and farmers' earnings are all on different levels. In order that our clumsy industrial system may work at all, they must be on about the same level.  
**Farmers Felt Drop First.**  
When prices began to drop, the drop fell on the farmer first. With unsold stocks of foodstuffs on hand, the buyers refused to give him a high price for what he raised. But he had to sell. So he took a low price. Wholesaler and retailer refused to follow suit. The cost of their operations was high, chiefly because wages remained high, and by co-operation and storage, both of which the farmer lacked, they were able to keep up their prices to a great extent.

But the farmers form about 40 per cent. of the buying public. Having

very little money, this large section of the buying public bought very little. Manufacturers of farm implements immediately felt the pinch. Their sales in many cases fell off more than half. Other manufacturing lines also felt it. As a result factory employees were thrown out of work. Unemployment set in. It affected millions. So the buying public was still further reduced, demand declined still more, the cost of every retailing operation rose and the retailer, with his high prices, was less than ever in a position to reduce them.

It is a stalemate which is easy to understand, but hard to remedy. If a bushel of potatoes would buy a pair of shoes in 1913 and it takes two bushels of potatoes to buy a pair of shoes now, then the potato growers can only buy half as many shoes now as in 1913. One result is that employees of shoe factories will be thrown out of jobs. Then they can't buy any shoes either.

Really, the farmer, if at all intelligent, is in an enviable position. He at least can eat. It is only the farmer who raises nothing but one money crop who now suffers—the man who raises only tobacco, or cotton—for example. The farmer who produces hogs and chickens and keeps dairy cattle and raises potatoes and beans and other vegetables, need go to market for very little of his food. He is vastly better off than ex-shoe-factory employee, for example.

Business will never pick up until the farmer once more is able to buy a pair of shoes with a bushel of potatoes. That can be accomplished either by giving the farmer more or the shoe-maker less. The diagnosis is easy, but the only remedy seems to be a slow process of readjustment.

### TO SUE GOVERNMENT

#### Important Case Coming up in Rhode Island.

Whether former soldiers whose minds were wrecked by shell-shock, wounds and gas are temporarily or permanently insane is to be determined in three suits to compel payment of war risk insurance by the government, filed in United States district court in Providence, R. I., by James B. Littlefield, attorney acting for the American Legion.

The action has been taken in behalf of three soldiers, Adam Milkilivich, Guiseppe Vitullo and James McGee. It is alleged by the Legion attorney that the three are totally disabled as a result of insanity. The government insurance bureau, Mr. Littlefield charges, has refused to pay the insurance of the men on the ground that they are but temporarily disabled and may recover their mental faculties.

Hundreds of New England service men, their minds dwarfed from shell-shock, wounds and gas, are confined in state institutions for the insane and in private hospitals. If Attorney Littlefield wins his case, similar suits will follow in federal courts in all New England states and, with a precedent established, in all parts of the country.

"These men were returned from service in the army as insane, and it has been established that their insanity is due to army service," Mr. Littlefield declares. "Yet the government refuses them the financial relief to which they are entitled under the war tax insurance act and they have not drawn a cent from their policies. Two must remain confined in the state asylum unless they can collect the \$57.50 a month for 20 years on their policies. This amount would enable them to be released from the asylum and allow their families to care for them."

### CANDY VALUABLE FOOD

#### Much Energy Contained in Small Portion of Sweets.

If there is any doubt as to the food value of candy, the statement, which bears the stamp of science and investigation that a man may walk a mile on the energy furnished by the caramel, provides food for thought, says the Cleveland Plain Dealer.  
The exact amount of energy produced depends, of course, upon the kind of candy eaten and the nature of the ingredients which enter into its composition.  
That candy is an energy producer was demonstrated many times in the recent war. The authorities, not wishing to feed the fighters stimulants that would lessen their resistance, gave them candy and jams in large quantities. Practical tests of the value of sugar in preventing or delaying fatigue were made, the results indicating the value of sugar in the ration when men are subjected to great exertion.

Chocolate bars are one of the most convenient forms in which sugar may be carried; they pack readily and carry much concentrated nourishment for their weight, making them a favorite with mountain climbers and hikers who do not wish to load themselves with large quantities of food and in which caramel will supply enough energy for a man to walk a mile, it will be seen how comparatively light the load may be. The Swiss guide considers lump sugar and highly sweetened chocolate an indispensable part of his outfit.

**The Humanitarian.**—"I use this horrible shriek horn on my automobile for humane reasons," explained Lieutenant Husted. "If I can paralyze a pedestrian with fear, he will stand still and I am less likely to run over him."—The Arklight.

## NEWS ABOUT CLOVER

Seventy-five Members of Barrett Family Attend Birthday Reunion

### SEVERAL CASES OF SCARLET FEVER

Clover People Drink Liquor Instead of Patent Medicines Says Druggist—Town Will Increase Its Water Supply—Other News and Notes.

(By a Staff Correspondent.)

Clover, Oct. 20.—The Barrett clan, descendants of Mr. W. A. Barrett of Clover and a few other relatives held a re-union at the home of Mr. Barrett's son, J. R. Barrett of Clover No. 3, last Saturday, the occasion being the 76th birthday of the senior Mr. Barrett. There were a total of seventy-five persons present and a bounteous dinner was served while the members of the family spent a most enjoyable day with their relatives some of whom they had not seen in a long time. Present for the occasion were eleven sons and daughters of Mr. W. A. Barrett, eight sons and daughters-in-law, twenty-eight grand children; seven great grand children; four brothers and sisters-in-law; eight nephews and nieces and four friends of the family. Despite his 76 years, the senior Mr. Barrett continues to enjoy good health and bears promise of many more years of life and usefulness.

**Liquor or Nothing.**  
That there are less patent medicines and extracts sold in Clover for beverage purposes than in any other town in this section of the country is the opinion of Dr. J. E. Brison, well known Clover druggist, who was discussing the matter with this correspondent yesterday. "Clover people," said Dr. Brison, "either drink liquor or they drink nothing. After a hard struggle the Clover drug stores have gotten rid of the patent medicine nuisance for beverage purposes. If a man comes here for a bottle of vanilla extract we make him sign a statement that it is not to be used as a beverage. Cod liver oil, peptone, predigested beef, and other such truck is no longer sold. Some of the grocery stores sold the stuff for a while; but now they have cut it out and the only time one sees it now is when some fellow who has been to some other town brings back a bottle. It is now liquor or nothing with Clover people and there is not a great deal of liquor being drunk."

### Fraternities Are Growing.

Clover fraternities, especially the Masons and Juniors, are growing in membership, according to Jas. A. Barrett, an enthusiastic member of both fraternities. According to Mr. Barrett a number of candidates have recently been initiated into both fraternities, and there are quite a number of applications pending.  
**Scarlet Fever in Town.**  
Several cases of scarlet fever are reported among children living at the Clover Cotton Mill here and while it is said that some of the patients have been pretty sick, none of them have been seriously sick. So far there has not been a single case in the Clover school, although the school authorities are somewhat apprehensive on account of it.

### New Residence for Town.

R. A. Jackson is laying materials preparatory to the erection of a residence on Bethel street in Clover. W. T. Beamsburg has the contract to build the house. Mrs. Virgie Jackson is building a residence on South Main street, near the Clover Cotton Oil mill.  
**Town to Buy Well Boring Machine.**  
According to Mayor I. J. Campbell, the town is going to buy a well boring machine as a matter of economy. For several weeks past the town has been trying to bore another well here to increase the town's water supply. Water has been reached at last, showing a flow of about five gallons a minute; but this is insufficient and it is going to be necessary to bore another well in the hope of striking water in greater volume. Well borers charge \$5 a foot for boring wells and the town figures that since much trouble is being had in striking a big vein it is much cheaper for it to own its own machinery and do its own boring. The town figures on selling the machinery after the work has been completed. It is hoped to have wells with a total flow of at least 200 gallons a minute by the time the work is completed.

### Gun Club Organized.

A. J. Quinn and Dr. I. J. Campbell have recently organized a gun club in Clover and every afternoon Sam Matthews, O. A. Niell, Frank McElwee, Will Rudisill, William Allison, T. M. Campbell and a number of other Clover sportsmen are out on Thad Clinton's field, off the Bethel road, having a try at clay pigeons. There are a number of good shots among the club members and there are a number of others who are becoming quite proficient in breaking the clay disks as they sail out of the pigeon gun.  
**Personal Mention.**  
Charlie Ratterree was a visitor in Atlanta this week.  
Dr. and Mrs. E. W. Pressly of Greenville, were visitors in Clover this week. Rev. and Mrs. A. A. McLean of Le-noir, N. C., visited friends in Clover this week. Rev. McLean was formerly pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Clover.

(Continued on Page Two)